

Agenda Item: I.B.

DATE: January 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Annual Articulation and Transfer Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2000, THEC adopted a 60-hour module to implement legislation for statewide articulation. The legislation addresses the following six categories of study:

Communication
Humanities
Social/Behavioral Sciences
History
Natural Sciences
Math

These categories comprise the general education core of 41 hours with the remaining 19 hours being reserved for pre-major courses.

Discipline groups are meeting to specify courses that will be acceptable to majors across all universities. Dr. Ellen Weed, VP NSCC, chairs the Task Force on Transfer and Articulation. TBR has taken the lead to improve the implementation of this initiative and is working with UT to create a state-wide 60-hour transfer process as required in the Articulation statute. The UT academic affairs staff is working closely with TBR staff to resolve outstanding issues to enhance the transition process between the institutions. This process is expected to be finalized within and between each system by Fall 2004. At the same time, the THEC statewide module also will be updated to reflect the changes.

Another initiative being considered is to establish an electronic student audit, transfer, and advising system patterned after the STARS system in Alabama. This system, along with the 60-hour transfer process, will eliminate the need for complicated, program by program articulation agreements. Alabama made a presentation to the Articulation committee indicating they have terminated articulation agreements and human error of advising students has been eliminated.

Funding will be required for the initial start-up of STARS and a small staff will be needed to maintain the system.

Transfer Trends

- On the average, transfer students in Tennessee comprise only eight percent of all students enrolled in public colleges and universities during

a fall semester. In the Fall 2003 semester, 173,140 undergraduate students enrolled in Tennessee public colleges and universities; 8.4 percent (14,585) of enrollees were transfer students.

- When compared to national and regional transfer data, Tennessee transfer patterns are low. Nationally, 39 percent of community college students transfer to a 4-year institution. Among the SREB states, over 21 percent of students transfer from a community college to a 4-year institution.
- In Tennessee, 9.5 percent of the overall undergraduate population at public universities was comprised of transfer students, while community colleges had a transfer population of 7.0 percent.
- Two-thirds (66.5 percent) of transfer students transferred from public and private colleges within Tennessee, while 33.5 percent transferred from out-of state institutions.
- Of the degrees awarded at Tennessee community colleges during the 2002-2003 academic year, 43 percent (2,717 students) were in parallel degree programs such as Associates of Arts and Associates of Science degrees, which are intended to prepare students for transfer to a university. Of the 2,717 parallel degree graduates, 46.3 percent enrolled at a state university during the Fall 2003 semester.